

5 a connect unit responsive to said request unit to make local and/or
6 remote connections to various group member stations within the network
7 which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and
8 a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the
9 calling station and a selected call pickup station.

1 16. A system according to claim 15, in which the request unit
2 comprises:
3 an automatic mode unit that automatically searches for a group
4 member station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call; and
5 a manual mode unit that is initiated by a group member who is aware
6 of an unanswered call at another station and searches for an alerting group
7 member station.

1 17. A system according to claim 15 further comprising a remote
2 search unit to search for a remote group member station that is alerting or
3 available preferably using a temporary signaling connections.

1 18. A system according to claim 17, wherein the remote search unit
2 sends a facility request to search all the group member stations at a remote
3 location.

1 19. A system according to claim 15, further comprising a
2 queue/dequeue unit for selecting a group member from a database.

1 20. A system according to claim 15, further comprising means for
2 assessing whether an available/alerting group member station fulfills set
3 criteria before final selection thereof.

1 21. A system according to claim 15, further comprising a release
2 links unit to release any temporary links used in establishing the connection
3 and/or convert them to a bearer service cell.

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22. A method of enabling group pickup in a communications network having more than one server comprising:
enabling the group pickup operation when there is an unanswered call at a member station anywhere on the network;
making local and/or remote connections to various group member stations which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations;
and establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station.

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23. A method according to claim 22 further including the step of automatically searching for a group member station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call.

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24. A method according to claim 22 further including the step of searching for an alerting group member station triggered by a group member who is aware of an unanswered call at another station.

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25. The method as recited in claim 22 further including the step of handling failures in the group pickup system.

About

- 1 26. Th method as recited in any claim 22 further including the step
2 of picking up a caller from anywhere within the network.
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Respectfully submitted,

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